(ख) अधिकांश कमियों को अब दूर कर दिया गया है ।

Treatment of Cancer Patients

*228. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

Will the PRIME' MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of people die in the country every year due to cancer, particularly in the rural areas;

(b) whether such incidents are increasing every year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken to provide proper treatment to the cancer patients; and

(e) the details of specific steps proposed to be taken to set up cancer hospitals, regional centres, both for the research and treatment, during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MI'NISTER OF STATE IN THE-MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No reliable nationwide data is available on deaths due to cancer in the country.

(b) Time trend analysis of the data from Cancer Registries at Mumbai, Bangalore and Chennai shows a small increase in the overall incidence rate of cancer.

(c) Some of the reasons for increase in the deaths due to cancer are as under:—

1. Increase in life expectancy at birth.

2. Changes in life style.

3. Excessive use of tobacco.

4. Increased reporting of cancer cases in tlit country.

5. Diagnosis of more and more cases as a result of development of new technologies.

(d) and (c) In order to combat this problem, Government of India has launched the following schemes under National Cancer Control Programme:—

1. Augmentation of Regional Cancer Centres.

2. Development of Oncology wings in the medical colleges.

3. Installation of Cobal-60 teletherapy equipment.

4. District cancer control projects.

Progress in Uranium Ore Extraction-Cum-Mili Expansion Project

*229. DR. D. VENKATESWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress in the Uranium ore extraction-cum-mill expansion project;

(b) the anticipated cost of the project; and

(c) the action taken to ensure observance of safety conditions as required by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUB-RAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) The Uranium ore mine at Narwapahar of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited in the Singhbhum District of Bihar has been commissioned and production through the decline commenced from April 1, 1995. The mine is likely to be fully commissioned by the end of 1998. The Anticipated cost of the Project is Rs.216.04 crore.

The expansion of the mill at Jaduguda at an anticipated cost of Rs.90.70 crore is expected to be completed by March 1998.

(c) Safety status at the Uranium ore mining/extraction stage from the mines at Jaduguda, Bhatin and Narwapahar and at the ore processing stage in the Uranium Mill at Jaduguda are closely monitored by the Health Physics Units (HPUs) of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.

The HPUs are stationed permanently at the plant site and regulate the radiation exposure of the mine and mill workers with the objective of keeping it within the permissible limits as stipulated by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The safety status is reported in the periodic reports issued by the HPUs and sent to AERB.

AERB Safety Review Committee for the UCIL plants conducts meetings at the site periodically and reviews the safety status. Recommendations of the Committee for improving the safety status are implemented by UCIL and this is ensured by AERB.

Preparation of working papers on Outstanding Issues between India and Pakistan

*230. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the second round of Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan, the two sides decided to prepare working papers to tackle all the outstanding issues and produce an agreed document;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the progress made;

(c) whether any mechanism was also evolved jointly to deal with the menace of terrorism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJ-RAL): (a) to (d) A joint Statement was issued in Islamabad on 23 June, 1997 on the conclusion of the second round of the resumed Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan. It was decided that the two countries will address, *inter alia,* the following subjects: (a) Peace and security, including CBMs; (b) Jammu and Kashmir; (c) Siachen; (d) Tulbul Navigation Project; (e) Sir Creek; (f) Terrorism and drug trafficking; (g) Economic and Commercial Cooperation; (h) Promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields. They also agreed to set up a mechanism, including working groups at appropriate levels, to address all these issues in an integrated manner; the issues at (a) and (b) above will be dealt at the level of the Foreign Secretaries, who willl also coordinate and monitor the progress of all the working groups. Both sides further agreed to take all possible steps to prevent hostile propaganda and provocative actions against each other.

The Joint Statement provides the basis for a comprehensive, constructive and sustained dialogue between India and Pakistan. It is the framework under which substantive discussions will take place on various issues.We look upon it as a step forward in our efforts to engage Pakistan on a broad front with the objective of building a relationship of trust, friendship and cooperation.

While the talks focussed primarily on modalities and mechanism for future discussions, our serious concerns about Pakistan's continued support and promotion of cross-border terrorism directed against India were conveyed. Terrorism has been identified as a subject for discussions between the two countries.

World Bank Assistance for Health Care Projects of Orissa

*231. SHRI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the health care projects submitted by the Government of Orissa to the Central Government for World Bank assistance during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) how many projects, out of them, have been recommended to the World Bank;

(c) whether any of those projects has been considered and funds provided by the World Bank; and

(d) if so, the project-wise details, as on date?